

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 8 and ending on page 19, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention is applicable to a variety of bussing schemes and peripheral read/write request methodologies. For example, various bussing architectures may be used, such as PCI, as well as various numbers of physical and logical buses. Various numbers of peripheral devices (hereinafter referred to as adapter cards or agents) may make read/write requests, and different numbers of adapter card housing modules may be employed for each of a plurality of buses. Further, the bussing scheme may be configured such that the bus bridge supports multiple “threads,” such as two read threads and one write thread. These and other design factors may result in various situations where bus requests cannot all be handled concurrently without delay or the issuance of command “retries.” In order to facilitate an understanding of the invention, a particular exemplary bussing design is described below that illustrates illustrating the need and benefits of the bus request fairness scheme of the present invention. From the description provided below, those of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that the present invention is equally applicable to other bussing schemes. The exemplary embodiment below describes a particular I/O read/write command scenario that exhibits characteristics that will clearly benefit from the principles of the present invention. Therefore, the exemplary input/output computing environment described below is representative of various input/output arrangements that may implement and benefit from the present invention, however the invention is not limited thereto.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 18 and ending on page 27, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Ownership rights are first determined in connection with an established-order arbiter 404. The arbiter 404 corresponds to the arbiters 308, 312, 316 illustrated in connection with FIG. 3. The established-order arbiter is configured to grant bus ownership to the various

requesting agents in a predefined, established order. This order may be fixed, or may be set according to a predefined algorithm. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the arbiter 402 utilizes a rotational or modified rotational priority. A default ownership order is therefore provided by the arbiter 404, and ownership is granted to a particular adapter card as shown by the ownership grant signal 406. The ownership signal 406 corresponds to a particular grant signal for the adapter card whose~~who~~'s turn arose in connection with the established-order arbiter 404.

Please delete the single line paragraph on page 33, line 1 stating "is issued 506 in order to"